

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please amend the Abstract as indicated below.

### **METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR JOINING STRUCTURES**

#### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

~~Methods and apparatuses for joining structures together are disclosed. One~~  
~~embodiment, includes a system of joined structures that includes a first structure having a~~  
~~first aperture in a composite material. The first aperture has a first interior surface and a~~  
~~first minimum radial extent. The system further includes a second structure having a~~  
~~second aperture in a metallic material. The second aperture has a second interior surface~~  
~~and a second minimum radial extent at least approximately the same as the first minimum~~  
~~radial extent. The system still further includes a coupling device having a first shank~~  
~~section extending through the first aperture and a second shank section extending through~~  
~~the second aperture. The portion of the second shank section applies a first radial force to~~  
~~the second interior surface and the first shank section applies at least approximately no~~  
~~radial force to the first interior surface. The composite material proximate to the first~~  
~~aperture is undamaged. coupling device is inserted through a first aperture of a first~~  
~~structure and through a second aperture of a second structure. The coupling device can~~  
~~be positioned with a first section of the coupling device extending through the first aperture~~  
~~and a second section of the coupling device extending through the second aperture, but~~  
~~not into the first aperture. A force can be applied to the coupling device to radially expand~~  
~~a portion of the second section of the coupling device toward an interior surface of the~~  
~~second aperture, while the first section of the coupling device in the first aperture remains~~  
~~at least approximately unexpanded in a radial direction or expands by a lesser amount in~~  
~~the radial direction.~~